

MARY LOU SOUTAR-HYNES

Variations

Take note of turbulence
the way a collar frames her face, blouse
loosely falling —
 irruptions
of red admirals, jewels on the wing

Claim all lands between high and low tide
 create ordinances
then a guard around
 your heart's perimeter —
a chain-link fence

Safer to rough it on the margins, rocked
 by lines of poetry
dreaming icebergs, edges sharp, a lucent
greening —
 all dues paid

Mind over Matter

Today the air is still,
a raw sienna settling ash —
 mists curl between conifers
in the ravine,
the lake all curves, undulations

Spanning the river,
the bridge recedes, languid, alert,
 arcing —
invitation's quiet utterance

All those unbridgeable
reaches across the years, striving for closure

Just kiss the rock,
 she said, *move on*

while memories breach the levees — tattered,
 whisper-thin

Mary Lou Soutar-Hynes's poetry appears earlier in this volume.